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Item. 5 April 4, 2017  
BILL 13 (2017), CD1

Testimony of Catherine Jorge in Support of Bill 13 Relating to Sidewalks

Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the City Council:

My name is Catherine Jorge. I am testifying in support of Bill 13.

I moved into the Senior Residence at Iwilei 3 years ago with great expectations of a nice, new, comfortable apartment in a pleasant and safe environment and within a short walk to Chinatown. I thought it would be a place where I could comfortably and safely live out my kapuna years. When I moved in only 80 of the 160 unit were filled. Though we were told the homeless would be kept at bay they were not. Prospective tenants were leery of the growing homeless in the general vicinity and the area around IHS. It took more than a year to fill all the units; that is unheard off.

A year after moving into my unit my dreams were dashed as the homeless population that resided in the general vicinity and that of IHS grew. In the ensuing year they were literally at my door. On a daily basis I have to walk about and live in proximity of their filth, stench and unruly loud noise both day and night. From my apartment I can witness their shameless lewd acts, fights, drug abuse and alcohol consumption. I cannot safely use the sidewalk and must use the roadway which they also occupy nor can I use the nearby bus shelter which they also occupy. I fear for my safety. My comfort and peace is compromised even when esconded in my 11th floor apartment. I can hear them at all hours of the day and night making sleep almost impossible. The homeless lurk around my condo building and are constantly chased away by our security guards. This is not what anyone; much less seniors, should have to experience. On a monthly basis tenants move out seeking a better and safer place to live due to the continued influx of the homeless population fronting our complex. We are defenseless and afraid and in need of your help.

I humbly ask that the City Council pass Bill 13 so that all of those that live work and visit the Iwilei area can do so in peace and safety.

Thank you

EMLA